

stability, safety and discipline. This, combined with unconditional affection and encouragement, provide children with the solid foundation to move ahead in life.

I was fortunate to have grown up in a household with such loving and dedicated parents. My mother and father strongly believed in the duty and responsibility they had to their six children, and worked tirelessly to ensure that my brothers and sisters and I would become healthy, productive adults.

As a matter of fact, it is from my parents that I learned the importance of using my God-given talents to serve others. My life in public service has been a reflection of what they not only preached, but on how they lived their lives. My siblings and I were taught early on that part of earning and deserving our citizenship was giving back, not only to our immediate family, but also to our community and our country.

Even as my mother entered her eighties, she still served as a model for our family. Although, she was moving on in years, she would still volunteer her time in the library of a Cleveland city school. I would ask her, "Mom—why are you still doing this? You've done enough! Why don't you just rest and take it easy?"

Her answer was always the same: "Because I'm needed."

I was truly blessed to have two wonderful parents who were such loving and supportive role models. Too often, today's youth look elsewhere for guidance and comfort, not realizing that all the support and guidance they need is already there under their own roof. It is imperative that we bring the role of parents back to prominence, for they are the front-line for instilling the values we cherish in all our nation's youth.

I encourage parents all over the nation to recognize and cherish the blessing and responsibility the have in raising God's gifts to them. It is my hope that through the establishment of "National Parents Week," we will raise awareness of just how important our parents are in molding the next generation of Americans citizens.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 151—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE WORLD CONFERENCE AGAINST RACISM, RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, XENOPHOBIA, AND RELATED INTOLERANCE PRESENTS A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS GLOBAL DISCRIMINATION**

Mr. DODD (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. WELLSTONE, and Mr. CORZINE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 151

Whereas racial discrimination, ethnic conflict, and xenophobia persist in various parts

of the world despite continuing efforts by the international community to address these problems;

Whereas in recent years the world has witnessed campaigns of ethnic cleansing;

Whereas racial minorities, migrants, asylum seekers, and indigenous peoples are persistent targets of intolerance and violence;

Whereas millions of human beings continue to encounter discrimination solely due to their race, skin color, or ethnicity;

Whereas early action is required to prevent the growth of ethnic hatred and to diffuse potential violent conflicts;

Whereas the United Nations World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance (in this resolution referred to as "WCAR"), to be held in Durban, South Africa, from August 31 through September 7, 2001, aims to create a new world vision for the fight against racism and other forms of intolerance in the twenty-first century, urge participants to adopt anti-discrimination policies and practices, and establish a mechanism for monitoring future progress toward a discrimination-free world;

Whereas the WCAR will review progress made in the fight against racism and consider ways to better ensure the application of existing standards to combat racism;

Whereas participants of the WCAR currently plan to discuss remedies, redress, and other mechanisms to provide recourse at national, regional, and international levels for victims of racism, xenophobia, sexism, religious intolerance, slavery, and other forms of discrimination;

Whereas the WCAR is charged with reviewing the political, historical, economic, social, cultural, and other factors leading to racism and racial discrimination and formulating concrete recommendations to further action-oriented national, regional, and international measures to combat racism;

Whereas some preparatory materials for the WCAR take positions on current crises which, if adopted in the final WCAR Declaration and Program of Action, could exacerbate existing tensions, such as language which takes sides in the current crisis between Israelis and Palestinians;

Whereas the attempt by some to use the WCAR as a platform to resuscitate the divisive and discredited notion equating Zionism with racism, a notion that was overwhelmingly rejected in 1991 by a subsequent United Nations Resolution, would undermine the goals and objectives of the WCAR;

Whereas the WCAR is expected to propose concrete recommendations to ensure that the United Nations has the resources to actively combat racism and racial discrimination; and

Whereas the United States encourages respect for an individual's human rights and fundamental freedoms without distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, or other status: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) encourages all participants in the WCAR to seize this singular opportunity to tackle the scourges of racism, xenophobia, sexism, religious intolerance, slavery, and other forms of discrimination which have divided people and wreaked immeasurable suffering;

(2) recognizes that, since racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and other forms of intolerance exist to some extent in every region and country around the world, efforts to address these prejudices should occur within a global framework and without reference to specific regions, countries, or present-day conflicts;

(3) exhorts the participants to utilize the WCAR to mitigate, rather than aggravate, racial, ethnic, and regional tensions;

(4) urges the WCAR to focus on concrete steps that may be taken to address gross human rights violations that were motivated by racially and ethnically based animus and on devising strategies to help eradicate such intolerance;

(5) hopes that objectionable language concerning Israel and Zionism will be removed so that the United States will be able to send a delegation and participate fully in the WCAR; and

(6) commends the efforts of the Government of the Republic of South Africa in hosting the WCAR.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 152—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS SHOULD REQUEST ASSISTANCE FROM THE COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SECURITY IN FULFILLING THE SECRETARY'S MANDATE TO PROVIDE OUTREACH TO VETERANS, THEIR DEPENDANTS, AND THEIR SURVIVORS**

Mrs. LINCOLN submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs:

S. RES. 152

Whereas the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has a statutory mandate to provide outreach to veterans, their dependents, and their survivors;

Whereas the most recent survey conducted by the VA indicates that many veterans and survivors are unaware of benefits they are eligible to receive;

Whereas recent press reports indicate many veterans are not aware that they are eligible for low-cost prescription medications as part of medical care provided by the VA;

Whereas some VA outreach initiatives, such as the Health Benefits Hotline (1-877-222-VETS), are somewhat recent;

Whereas more than 9,000,000 veterans receive Social Security benefits;

Whereas the number of members of the largest group of veterans, the Vietnam Era veterans, who are awarded Social Security disability and retirement insurance benefits will increase over time;

Whereas the Social Security Administration sends more than 45,000,000 cost-of-living adjustment notices to its beneficiaries each year;

Whereas the Social Security Administration sends more than 2,000,000 award notices to newly-entitled disability and retirement insurance beneficiaries each year;

Whereas more than 100,000 persons visit the field offices of the Social Security Administration every workday;

Whereas the Social Security Administration has 65,000 employees, most of whom come into contact with the public;

Whereas many Social Security beneficiaries who are veterans could benefit from VA medical care because they do not have prescription drug coverage or are not currently eligible for Medicare; and

Whereas many Social Security beneficiaries are eligible for additional income through the VA's pension and compensation programs: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the Secretary of Veterans Affairs should request assistance from the Commissioner of Social Security in fulfilling the

Secretary's mandate to provide outreach to veterans, dependents, and survivors; and

(2) such assistance should include—

(A) using the December 2002 Social Security cost-of-living adjustment notice as a means of publicizing the VA Health Benefits Hotline and the fact that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provides comprehensive health care, including prescription medications, to veterans;

(B) using Social Security award notices for retirement insurance and disability insurance benefits to publicize the VA Health Benefits Hotline and the fact that the VA provides comprehensive health care, including prescription medications, to veterans;

(C) distributing VA publications that describe the cash, health, and other benefits available through the VA to all Social Security Administration field offices so that these publications may be provided to members of the public who visit such offices; and

(D) broadcasting information to all employees at the Social Security Administration who have contact with the public regarding the health care benefits (including the availability of prescription medications as part of treatment) available through the VA, each pension and compensation program of the VA, and other benefits available through the VA so that employees at the Social Security Administration can inform veterans about VA programs.

Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. President, I rise today to submit a Senate resolution calling on the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to work with the Commissioner of the Social Security Administration to better inform the Nation's veterans and their dependents about benefits available from the VA.

In recent months, we have seen considerable legislative activity designed to improve outreach to veterans and their dependents. The President recently signed into law the Veterans' Survivor Benefits Improvement Act. This Act, for the first time, provides the VA with a legislative mandate to provide outreach and assistance to dependents of veterans. In addition to this legislation, several of my distinguished colleagues in the Senate have introduced the Veterans' Right to Know Act. This Act would require the VA, once it received an application for any benefit, to inform a veteran or a dependent about ALL VA benefits. The Veterans' Right to Know Act would also require the VA to develop an annual outreach plan by working with service organizations representing veterans.

However, I know that the VA is concerned that some of these initiatives are bureaucratic requirements that would divert resources from programs that directly serve the veteran population. I understand the concerns of the VA and let me make it clear that I am not here today to criticize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs or the employees of the VA. I consider the Secretary and his employees to be some of the most dedicated public servants in the Nation.

Instead, I am here today to ask for the Secretary's help and to ask him to consider our perspective as legislators. We have passed legislation to provide health care and economic security to

our Nation's veterans and yet we often hear from constituents who are not aware of the benefits and services the VA provides.

One of the most important benefits the VA provides is comprehensive health care, including low-cost prescription medications. Unfortunately, many veterans believe they have to be disabled or poor to enroll in the VA health care system. The reality is that any honorably discharged veteran can enroll in VA health care.

Let me tell you about a message recently posted on the Web site of Seniors USA. The message is from Art Mazer, who is the Coordinator for the Gray Panthers of Greater Boston. Mr. Mazer writes that he has just enrolled in the VA health care system and will now receive his medications for just \$2 per month from the VA pharmacy. Mr. Mazer, who happened to find out about these pharmacy benefits through an email newsletter of the Social Security Administration, refers to the prescription drug benefits provided by the VA as "one of the best kept secrets" in the government. Although I applaud the Social Security Administration for its informative newsletter and I am glad Mr. Mazer is sharing the information with other seniors, I am concerned that VA health care is being described on an Internet site for seniors as one of the best kept secrets of the government.

In some ways, it is appropriate that Mr. Mazer found out about VA benefits from the Social Security Administration. Remarkably, two out of every five veterans receive Social Security. Today, more than nine million veterans are on the Social Security rolls. Over the next several years, we will see millions of Vietnam Era veterans being brought into Social Security's disability and retirement programs.

The Social Security Administration has one of the most extensive systems of public communication in our government. Each year, this Agency sends out tens of millions of notices to its beneficiaries. These notices inform the public about Social Security, Medicare, and other vital government programs. Every workday, 100,000 citizens visit the Social Security Administration's 1,300 field offices around the country. The primary role of field office employees is to administer the Social Security programs, but we know from our disabled and elderly constituents that it is often a Social Security employee who tells them about a program to help pay their Medicare bills or a program to help them meet their food expenses. Simply put, the Social Security Administration is on the front lines in our battle to alleviate poverty among our disabled and elderly citizens.

The Resolution I am submitting today calls on the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to request assistance from the Commissioner of Social Security in fulfilling the Secretary's mandate to provide outreach to veterans and their dependents. The Resolution outlines four initiatives, but let me talk briefly about just one.

Each year the Social Security Administration mails 45 million cost-of-living adjustment notices to its beneficiaries. The primary purpose of these COLA notices is to tell beneficiaries how much their benefits will increase. However, the Social Security Administration has used a portion of these notices in the past to provide information on government health care programs, such as Medicare. It is my hope that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs will request that a portion of these COLA notices include information on the VA health care system, including its provision of low-cost prescription drugs. The VA, to its credit, has developed a Health Benefits Hotline, 1-877-222-VETS, so that veterans can find out about and enroll in VA health care. The COLA notices are an effective way to publicize this Hotline. We know that it requires time to prepare for these outreach initiatives, but I am hopeful that this initiative could be implemented for the December 2002 COLA notices. This gives the Secretary over a year to work with the Social Security Administration to implement the initiative.

The initiatives outlined in this Resolution are not costly or intrusive because they build on the already-existing capabilities of the Federal Government. And yet, these initiatives will inform millions of veterans and their dependents about VA programs.

The current Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Anthony J. Principi, is a combat-decorated veteran. I know he is deeply committed to serving veterans and their families. So, today, through this Resolution, I am asking him to take some practical steps to ensure that our veterans and their families are fully informed about benefits and services provided by the VA. I feel sure that the Social Security Administration, an Agency with a well-earned reputation for serving the disabled and the elderly, will respond favorably to a request for assistance by Secretary Principi.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 153—RECOGNIZING THE ENDURING CONTRIBUTIONS, HEROIC ACHIEVEMENTS, AND DEDICATED WORK OF SHIRLEY ANITA CHISHOLM

Mrs. CLINTON (for herself, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. DODD, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LEVIN, and Mr. SCHUMER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

##### S. RES. 153

Whereas Shirley Anita Chisholm has devoted her life to public service;

Whereas Shirley Anita Chisholm served in the New York State Assembly from 1964 to 1968;

Whereas Shirley Anita Chisholm became the first African-American woman to be elected to Congress in 1968;

Whereas Congresswoman Chisholm was a fierce critic of the seniority system in Congress, protested her assignment in 1969 to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of